

01-21-05

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**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

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Kristen Ursin-Smith

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**PATENT**

**Attorney Docket No. 39254-0005**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Pre Application )

PATENT APPLICATION

Inventor(s): Edward W. Knowlton )

Art Unit: 3762

Application No.: 10/620,311 )

Examiner: Not Assigned

Filed: July 14, 2003 )

Title *Method and Apparatus for Surgical Dissection* )

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97**

Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on an attached Form PTO-1449 is information known to applicant(s). A copy of each listed publication and U.S. and foreign patent, along with a concise explanation of information in a foreign language, if any, except for pending U.S. applications is enclosed or identified with an asterisk as having been previously cited in priority application, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.98(d).

Applicant respectfully request that the listed information be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the above-identified application. The Examiner is requested to initial and return it in accordance with MPEP §609.

This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56.



☒ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):

☐ (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date and is other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d)

-- OR --

☐ (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage

-- OR --

☒ (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits

-- OR --

☐ (4) It is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the latest of: (1) three months beyond the filing date of a national application; (2) three months beyond the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; or (3) the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, then:

☐ a certification as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; or

☐ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, but before payment of the issue fee, then:

A. a certification as specified in §1.97(e) is completed below; and

B. a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d) requesting consideration of this statement is submitted herewith; and

C. a fee of \$130.00 as set forth in §1.17(i)(1) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

☒ **Fee Authorization.** The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the above-referenced fees of \$ 0.00 and charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 08-1641 (Docket No. 39254-0005).

Respectfully submitted,

HELLER EHRMAN WHITE & MCAULIFFE LLP

Dated: 1/19/05

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## PTO-1449

**39254-0005 US**

**10/620,311**

APPLICANT Edward W. Knowlton

FILING DATE 07/14/2003

GROUP: 3762

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	5,919,219	07/06/1999	Knowlton, Edward W.			
	6,241,753	06/05/2001	Knowlton, Edward W.			
	6,311,090	10/30/2001	Knowlton, Edward W.			
	6,350,276	02/26/2002	Knowlton, Edward W.			
	6,377,854	04/23/2002	Knowlton, Edward W.			

[illegible]


DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.